

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 48 and 50 through 56 are pending, with Claims 48, 50, 53, and 55 being independent. Claims 48 and 50 through 52 have been amended. Claims 53 through 56 have been added, being method claims formulated in view of apparatus Claims 48 and 50 through 52. Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to, by way of example and not of limitation, the first embodiment (with respect to Claims 48, 49, 53, and 54), and the third embodiment (with respect to Claims 50, 52, 55, and 56).

Claim 51 was objected to for an informality. All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claim as kindly suggested in the Official Action.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and Primary Examiner for the courtesies extended in granting and conducting on October 15, 2009, a personal interview with Applicants' representative. At the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiners discussed the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over newly-cited US 2002/0010923 A1 (Pack, et al.) in view of US 2001/0035917 A1 (Satake, et al.), which are respectfully traversed, as well as proposed amendments to the claims. Applicants understand that the Examiners are in tentative agreement that the proposed amendments overcome the rejections (since the claims recite, *inter alia*, "controlling" neither described nor suggested by the applied documents, as discussed at the interview), and the claims have been amended along the lines discussed at the interview. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed

above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR FURTHER INTERVIEW

If any questions remain, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (202) 530-1010 to schedule an interview.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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